

### THE "SNOW COUNTRY" OF CENTRAL NEW YORK.

In the MONTHLY WEATHER REVIEW for December, 1901, p. 563, there is an article on "The Influence of small lakes on local climate," having especial reference to the lakes of central and western New York. The heavy snowfall in this section of New York was partly explained in the MONTHLY WEATHER REVIEW for September, 1901, p. 422. Dr. M. A. Veeder communicates the following additional information relative to this subject:

In Oneida County, N. Y., along the line of the Utica and Black River Railroad, between Renisen and Boonville, there is a region popularly known as "Snow Country." It is situated at the parting of the streams, and quite abruptly reaches an elevation of from 1,200 to 1,500 feet above sea level, being the highest land near Lake Ontario. The great amount of snow appears to be due to the fact that the winds that sweep across the lake are forced to a higher level by this elevated land surface. It seems to be a well defined local peculiarity.—H. H. K.

### NATIONAL BUREAU OF STANDARDS.

The following is a brief abstract of a circular of information issued by the National Bureau of Standards.—C. F. M.

The Bureau was established by an Act of Congress, approved March 3, 1901, by virtue of which the old Office of Standard Weights and Measures of the Treasury Department was superseded by the National Bureau, with greatly enlarged powers and duties. Generous provision was made for the purchase of a site for buildings removed from mechanical and electrical disturbances likely to interfere with the delicate work of the Bureau. The laboratory and power house are being planned with a view to future enlargement, and it is expected they will be ready for occupancy by January 1, 1903.

The functions of the Bureau are embraced in three heads, as follows:

(1) The comparison with authorized standards and the testing and calibration of all classes of measuring apparatus

employed in science, engineering, manufacture, commerce, the arts, and education.

(2) The construction of standards, their multiples and sub-multiples, and the solution of problems which arise in connection with standards.

(3) The determination of physical constants and the properties of materials when such data are of great importance to scientific or manufacturing interests and are not to be obtained of sufficient accuracy elsewhere.

Pending the completion of the new laboratories, the Bureau now occupies the old Office of Standard Weights and Measures, and is prepared to take up only a limited amount and kind of work, consisting of the comparison of the standard and measuring instruments named below:

**Length measures.**—Standard bars from 1 to 10 feet, or from 1 decimeter to 5 meters; base bars; bench standards; leveling rods; graduated scales; engineers' and surveyors' metal tapes 1 to 300 feet, or from 1 to 100 meters.

**Weights.**—From 0.01 grain to 50 pounds, or from 0.1 milligram to 20 kilograms.

**Capacity measures.**—From 1 fluid ounce to 5 gallons, or from 1 milliliter to 10 liters.

**Thermometers.**—Between 32° and 120° Fahrenheit, or 0° to 50° centigrade.

**Polariscopic apparatus.**—Scales of polariscopes, quartz control plates, and other accessory apparatus.

**Hydrometers.**—Alcoholometers, salinometers, and saccharometers, whose scales correspond to densities between 0.85 and 1.20.

**Resistances.**—Standard coils of the following denominations: 1, 2, 5, 10, 100, 1,000, 10,000, 100,000 ohms; low-resistance standards for current measurements of the following denominations: 0.1, 0.01, 0.001, 0.0001 ohms. Coils of resistance boxes; potentiometers; ratio coils.

**Standards of electro-motive force.**—Clark and other standard cells.

**Direct-current measuring apparatus.**—Millivoltmeters and voltmeters up to 150 volts; ammeters up to 50 amperes.

It is the desire of the Bureau to cooperate with manufacturers, scientists, and others, in bringing about more satisfactory conditions relative to weights and measures in the broader meaning of the term, and to place at the disposal of those interested such information relative to these subjects as may be in possession of the Bureau. All communications and articles should be addressed "National Bureau of Standards, Washington, D. C."

### THE WEATHER OF THE MONTH.

By Prof. ALFRED J. HENRY, in charge of Division of Records and Meteorological Data.

#### CHARACTERISTICS OF THE WEATHER FOR MARCH.

The weather of February, 1902, was characterized by low temperatures and great dryness in the interior of the country and heavy precipitation on both coasts. The weather of March, 1902, as regards temperature, stands out in strong contrast to that of the preceding month. The temperature was above the seasonal average in all parts of the country, except the middle Rocky Mountain region and thence westward to the coast. The weather in the Lake region was unusually open and pleasant, and gave promise of a speedy opening of interlake navigation. The precipitation was generally above the seasonal average, except in the Ohio Valley and the Lake region. A notable characteristic of the month was the persistence of southwestern storms and the heavy snowfall along the Appalachians from eastern Tennessee to New England.

#### PRESSURE.

The distribution of monthly mean pressure is shown graphically on Chart IV and the numerical values are given in Tables I and VI.

There was a sharp reaction from the pressure conditions which prevailed in February, 1902. It may be remembered that pressure was unusually low off both coasts and high in the interior. During the current month there was a sharp rise of pressure on both coasts and a fall in the interior, the rise amounting to 0.3 inch over the Canadian Maritime Prov-

inces and about 0.15 inch along the north Pacific coast. Pressure was lower in the interior of the country by amounts ranging on the average from one to two-tenths of an inch. Monthly mean pressure was generally below the average in all parts of the country, except the Canadian Maritime Provinces and the California coast.

#### TEMPERATURE OF THE AIR.

The distribution of monthly mean surface temperature, as deduced from the records of about 1,000 stations, is shown on Chart VI.

As stated under characteristics of the weather, the month was unusually warm in all districts, except the middle Rocky Mountain and Plateau regions and the Pacific coast. The greatest positive departures occurred in the Lake region, where the temperature was as much as 10° to 12° above the seasonal average. No unusual maximum temperatures were recorded.

A rather severe cold wave for the season swept over the country on the 16th, 17th, and 18th. Temperatures as low as 25° below zero were recorded in North Dakota and northern Minnesota. Freezing temperatures were also recorded in the South Atlantic States, but not in Florida or along the immediate Gulf coast.

The average temperature for the several geographic districts and the departures from the normal values are shown in the following table: